

HOUSE RESOLUTION 212

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Holly Warlick and the University of Tennessee Lady Vols on an outstanding 2013-2014 basketball season.

WHEREAS, this body is pleased to recognize Head Coach Holly Warlick and the University of Tennessee (UT) 2013-2014 women's basketball team, a talented squad that enjoyed a great season and performed in a manner that should make all Tennesseans proud; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the rich history and winning ways of UT sports programs, the Lady Vols rose to a familiar height of competition in this year's NCAA Women's Basketball Championship and performed honorably and admirably with every tip of the ball at center court throughout the season; and

WHEREAS, on March 9th, the Lady Vols won the Southeastern Conference (SEC) women's championship title by upending the Kentucky Wildcats in an intense and closely contested game, 71-70; with that win, Tennessee captured its league-leading 17th all-time SEC Women's Basketball Tournament title; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, March 30th, the Lady Vols met the intrepid Maryland Terrapins in the 2014 Sweet Sixteen of NCAA tournament play, but despite their best efforts, the Lady Vols lost 73-62; and

WHEREAS, even though the Lady Vols' drive to the championship title has ended for this year, their accomplishments during this season and over the years are truly laudable. This was UT's 33rd appearance in the NCAA big dance, and their 32nd appearance in a Sweet Sixteen match-up; the Lady Vols have reached the Elite Eight 26 times, and their overall NCAA Tournament record is an incredible 117-25; and

WHEREAS, in closing out the 2013-2014 season, the Lady Vols say good-bye to senior Meighan Simmons, who has been an outstanding starting guard for her team. She led the team in scoring against Maryland with 31 points, setting her career high and marking her 31st game this season in double figures; and

WHEREAS, others who contributed mightily to the Lady Vols season's success are juniors Cierra Burdick, Isabelle Harrison, and Ariel Massengale; sophomores Bashaara Graves, Jasmine Jones, and Nia Moore; and freshmen Andraya Carter, Jordan Reynolds, Mercedes Russell, and Jannah Tucker; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Vols benefited greatly from the basketball expertise, coaching brilliance, and inspirational leadership of Head Coach Holly Warlick. For more than three decades, her impact benefited UT, from her career as a three-time All-American point guard (1976-1980), to her 27 highly-productive years as a loyal assistant for Hall of Fame Coach Pat Summitt, to her ascension to the head coaching position at UT on April 18, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the other essential members of the Vols's coaching staff are: Pat Summitt, head coach emeritus; Kyra Elzy, assistant coach; Jolette Law, assistant coach; Dean Lockwood, assistant coach; Michael Beaumont, director of basketball operations; Janet McGee, assistant to the head coach; Lee Taylor, strength and conditioning coach; Josh Baney, video coordinator; and Amber Smith, graduate assistant; and

WHEREAS, Coach Warlick and the UT Lady Vols have distinguished themselves as a great college basketball team, and they should be specially recognized upon their highly successful 2013-2014 season; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and congratulate Coach Holly Warlick and the University of Tennessee Lady Vols upon winning two games in the NCAA Tournament and reaching the prestigious Sweet Sixteen during a 29-win season and extend to these fine young women our best wishes for every continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.